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NEWS RELEASE

June 16, 2004

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WORKSHOP, GARDEN TOUR FOCUS ON MISSOULA'S NATIVE PLANTS

MISSOULA —

A free workshop at The University of Montana and tour of Missoula's native lawns and gardens on Saturday, June 26, will teach people to avoid harmful yard chemicals, conserve water, create wildlife habitat and preserve Garden City nature.

Events kick off at 10 a.m. in the University Center Theater, located on the third floor of the UC. Acclaimed environmentalist and author Carole Rubin will offer readings from her books, lawn- and garden-care facts, and slides of yards and gardens across North America.

Rubin is the best-selling author of "How to Get Your Lawn & Gardens Off Drugs" and "How to Get Your Lawn Off Grass." In her frank and funny presentations, she challenges beliefs about water purity and abundance, our use of technology, and phobias people harbor about insects and "weeds."

Events continue from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Montana Native Plant Garden, located on campus adjacent to the UC and Botany Building. Rubin will be on hand to sign copies of her books, and participants can pick up maps for the Native Plant Garden Tour, which will run from noon to 4 p.m. at five Missoula locations.

Expert gardeners will be available at each stop to inspire others to create their own native plant gardens. This year's tour includes a native woodland garden, the private garden of

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the late botanist Klaus Lackshewitz and a native prairie and aspen grove in the middle of town.

The workshop and tour are presented by the Montana Native Plant Society in cooperation with the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project, Missoula County Extension Service, UM and the Missoula County Weed District.

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